

Appl. No. : 10/619,205
Filed : July 14, 2003

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention, and claim 22 has been added. Support can be found in Figs. 20(B), 21(B), and 22(A), for example. Claim 3 has been canceled as the limitations of claim 3 have been incorporated into claim 1. Claims 18-21 have been canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 4, 5, and 14-17 are withdrawn from further consideration as being directed to a non-elected species. However, claim 1 is generic to these claims and if claim 1 is finally held to be allowable, these claims will be rejoined. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lund (WO 89/01104).

Claims 1-3 and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schwartzman (863).

Claims 1-3 and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by De Laforcade.

Claims 1-3 and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schwartzman (668).

Claims 1-3 and 6-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schwartzman (162).

Claim 1 is independent and has been amended to clarify the invention. Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claim 1 recites that a valve body has “an umbrella shape corresponding to said opening to close said opening with the valve body along a circumferential periphery of the valve body,” and a valve support portion comprises: “multiple connectors each connecting the bottom plate and the annular support and having multiple points of flexion, said connectors elastically urging the bottom plate downward to close the opening with the valve body and being bendable at the multiple points of flexion as the bottom plate moves upward and pushes the valve portion to open the opening.”

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None of the references teaches a valve body having an umbrella shape and connectors having multiple points of flexion. Thus, each and every element of claim 1 is not taught by any of the references, and therefore claim 1 cannot be anticipated by the references. At least for this reason, the remaining dependent claims also cannot be anticipated by the references. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

New claim

Claim 22 has been added. The claim depends from claim 1 and further recites acutely angled flexions which are not taught by any of the references. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the Applicant's amendments to the claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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